

4-5-99

We're going to start another Easter Egg Roll in just a few moments. ~~Before we do, I want to say a few words about the men and women of our Armed Forces, who are undertaking a mission in the Balkans for the sake of our national interests, our values and our children's future. Our thoughts and prayers~~ are with them.

RL -
2002
Easter egg roll
2 + 1072

DRAFT

196
EOB

April 2, 1999

POTUS PARTICIPATION IN ANNUAL WHITE HOUSE EASTER EGG ROLL

DATE: Monday, April 5

LOCATION: Reception, State Floor
Event, South Lawn

TIME: 9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

STAFF CONTACT: Melinda Bates, 6-2324

I. PURPOSE

You participate in this annual White House Easter event by hosting a breakfast reception, making remarks from a stage on the driveway, and blowing a whistle.

II. BACKGROUND

A traditional White House event, since Rutherford and Lucy Hayes, dating back to 1878. This is the 121st White House Easter Egg Roll. We expect 30,000 guests. 400 terminally ill or disabled children are the first on the lawn at 8:00 am.

works jointly
This year, the White House Easter Egg Roll will feature an innovative effort called Prescription for Reading. Launched by the First Lady two years ago, the Prescription for Reading initiative ~~uses the influence of doctors, health care professionals and librarians~~ to ensure that all children become successful readers. Doctors "prescribe" reading for parents and their children, writing actual prescriptions for this important family activity. This year at the White House Easter Egg Roll, children and families will receive "Prescriptions for Reading" signed by the First Lady and Surgeon General David Satcher. Families will be able to "fill" these prescriptions on the White House South Lawn by receiving a book donated by Scholastic, Inc..

Children will again roll and dye eggs on the lawn. A 40 foot giant nest is available for children to climb. Presidential re-enactors, entertainers, Cabinet Secretaries, the Chief of Staff, Maria Echaveste, Jamie Lee Curtis, Dawn Small's mother, and others, present stories, music and fables on five stages. Children can learn how to send and receive an e-mail to and from you and can write a spring or Easter greeting card. One tent hosts a CD Rom presentation about the White House and 5-A-Day nutrition. Once again embassies are showcased in Springtime Traditions. Kodak provides digital photos with the White House in the background for families. Each child takes home a souvenir wooden Easter egg. Each family is given an Easter Egg Roll poster and an Easter Egg Roll Book.

*46) our Purpose for new... (added by the medical initiative...)
Launched by the First Lady 2 years ago, this innovative
effort works jointly w/ doctors, health care
professionals & librarians to emphasize the import. of reading to children. EOB*

III. PARTICIPANTS

HRC

200 Reception guests, sponsors, contributors

Celebrity reader: Jamie Lee Curtis, who will read her book "Today I Feel Silly and Other Moods That Make My Day"

President and First Lady interpreters: George and Martha Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Abigail Adams and Benjamin Bannecker.

IV. PRESS PLAN

Pool press for your remarks

National Press for nightly news

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

TBD —

You host sponsors and celebrity entertainers at a breakfast on the State Floor. This year there is **one** breakfast, from 9:15 a.m. to 9:55 a.m. Following the reception you both exit from the Red Room, descending the stairs to a stage on the driveway while the Marine Band plays *In Your Easter Bonnet*. On stage Mrs. Clinton makes brief remarks, then you make remarks, and blow the whistle handed to you by Bernie Fairbanks or a bunny. The egg roll lanes are directly in front of the stage, press are to your right. You then descend the stairs, work the ropeline, if you wish, and proceed to the Diplomatic Reception Room. There you greet two Make-a-Wish children, Mariniati Agus (13) and Nicholas Burrus (9), and depart.

VI. REMARKS

2 minutes

Remarks to be provided by Speechwriting

VII. RECEPTION

Receiving Line in the Blue Room. The first guests you greet are:

Poster presenter, Susan Loy. Susan designed last year's program and this year's poster.

Egg presenters Colleen Anderson, Chairman of American Egg Board and Lou Raffel, President of American Egg Board. This year's egg is an image of the White House decorated with 3,456 seed pearls displayed in a ceramic basket. (Kaye Faraca, President of the International Egg Art Guild, is the artist).

Other sponsors and contributors.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the First Lady

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 2, 1999

CONTACT: MARSHA BERRY
TOBY GRAFF
JULIE MASON
202-456-2960

WHITE HOUSE EASTER EGG ROLL
SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, APRIL 5, 1999

Washington, D.C. -- The White House will hold its annual Easter Egg Roll on Monday, April 5, 1999. The Easter festivities include an Easter Egg Roll for children aged 3 - 6, story-telling, historical re-enactments, musical performances, and other entertainment. Activities will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., on the South Lawn and the Ellipse.

The Easter Egg Roll has been an American tradition since the mid-19th century. The celebration, begun on the Capitol grounds, was moved to the White House's South Lawn in 1878 by Lucy Hayes, wife of President Rutherford B. Hayes. Approximately 30,000 children and families are expected to participate in the Easter activities.

This year, the Easter Egg Roll will highlight Prescription for Reading, an innovative effort to emphasize the importance of reading to children. Based on recent research showing that reading to children in their first years of life enhances their healthy development, In January 1997 First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton called on booksellers, publishers, libraries, hospitals, pediatricians, health centers and others to work together to make sure that infants and toddlers who come to the doctor have access to books and are read to regularly. In response to Mrs. Clinton's challenge, the Prescription for Reading Partnership was born to coordinate and build on existing efforts to "prescribe" reading for children. As part of this initiative, children and families at the 1999 White House Easter Egg Roll will receive "Prescriptions for Reading", signed by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Surgeon General David Satcher. Families will be able to "fill" these prescriptions on the White House South Lawn for a free book donated by Scholastic, Inc., a key member of the Prescription for Reading Partnership.

As in years past, Administration officials and celebrities also will promote reading by participating in story telling with children during the Easter festivities. Administration officials reading aloud from their favorite books include: Attorney General Janet Reno, who will read Janet, Queen of the Bunny Planet; and White House Chief of Staff John Podesta, who will read Dawn and the Round-To-It. Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater, Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman, Surgeon General David Satcher, and U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky, will also join in reading books to children. Celebrity story-tellers include Jamie Lee Curtis, who will read her own children's book, Today I Feel Silly, and Other Moods That Make My Day.

- more -

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 31, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT THE KICKOFF OF THE WHITE HOUSE EASTER EGG ROLL

The South Portico Balcony

11:20 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. Let me say, first of all, it's getting warmer. (Laughter.) And I want to thank all the sponsors who make this possible this year and the more than 500 volunteers. A lot of them worked here all weekend. I went down and visited with them. Let's give them all a big hand. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

This is the 119th year we've had the White House Easter Egg Roll, and every year it gets a little better, I think, and a little different. We've worked hard to make this a good time not only for children but for their parents and family members, so that we could have fun together and we could learn together.

There is a Learn Big Things tent, which I hope you'll all visit. For many of the young people, it will give them a first chance to log on to the Internet or even to visit our White House homepage. There is a Learning Adventures tent where children can learn to use CD-ROMs and learn about things like nutrition. Then there is the opportunity to do Easter Egg painting and to listen to storytelling.

And I want to thank all the people who have been willing to be part of this, especially one of our special guests today who is down here with us along with two of her four children, Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman, Jane Seymour. Thank you, Jane, for coming. We're glad to have you here. (Applause.)

And now, are they ready over there at the Easter Egg roll? Are you all ready? Now, you can't start until I blow the whistle. On your mark -- are you ready? Come on, line up. Shape up here. One of us needs to be able to run. (Laughter.) On your mark, get set, go. (Blows whistle.)

Thank you and God bless you. Happy Easter.

END

11:22 A.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 31, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT THE KICKOFF OF THE WHITE HOUSE EASTER EGG ROLL

The South Portico Balcony

11:20 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. Let me say, first of all, it's getting warmer. (Laughter.) And I want to thank all the sponsors who make this possible this year and the more than 500 volunteers. A lot of them worked here all weekend. I went down and visited with them. Let's give them all a big hand. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

This is the 119th year we've had the White House Easter Egg Roll, and every year it gets a little better, I think, and a little different. We've worked hard to make this a good time not only for children but for their parents and family members, so that we could have fun together and we could learn together.

There is a Learn Big Things tent, which I hope you'll all visit. For many of the young people, it will give them a first chance to log on to the Internet or even to visit our White House homepage. There is a Learning Adventures tent where children can learn to use CD-ROMs and learn about things like nutrition. Then there is the opportunity to do Easter Egg painting and to listen to storytelling.

And I want to thank all the people who have been willing to be part of this, especially one of our special guests today who is down here with us along with two of her four children, Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman, Jane Seymour. Thank you, Jane, for coming. We're glad to have you here. (Applause.)

And now, are they ready over there at the Easter Egg roll? Are you all ready? Now, you can't start until I blow the whistle. On your mark -- are you ready? Come on, line up. Shape up here. One of us needs to be able to run. (Laughter.) On your mark, get set, go. (Blows whistle.)

Thank you and God bless you. Happy Easter.

END

11:22 A.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 4, 1994

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AND FIRST LADY
AT EASTER EGG ROLL

The South Lawn

9:45 A.M. EDT

MRS. CLINTON: Well, welcome everyone to the Annual Easter Egg Roll and the celebration of Easter and Spring here at the White House. And we want to thank all of you for coming, and we especially want to thank parents and grandparents and aunts and uncles and big brothers and big sisters and friends for bringing all of the children here today.

And I hope you have a chance to look at the program for all of the events because we not only have the events for some of the children here on the South Lawn, but we have lots of events going on all day right behind you over by the Washington Monument on the Ellipse. So there will be children over there who will be coming here and we hope that you all will have a chance to go there to enjoy everything that has been planned for today.

We are also very excited to thank all of the people who helped put this on, and they are all listed in here. So many people have worked so long and so hard to make this such a special day for all of us. And I particularly want to thank Robyn Dickey of the White House staff who coordinated all of this effort. I am so grateful to her and to everybody who worked to make this possible.

One of the things that we do at the Easter Egg Roll is to continue the tradition that started way, way back when President Madison was President of the United States, and his wife, Dolley Madison started the Easter Egg Roll. And we think that it's wonderful that you can be doing things that children did nearly 200 years ago -- about 180 or 190 years ago -- and every year since then. And so it's my real pleasure to introduce the President who is following in the tradition of all the other presidents to be able to kick off the celebration of the Easter Egg Roll -- President Clinton. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. I am so glad to see all of you here. I woke up before dawn this morning, and when I got out just at dawn I already saw the Easter Bunnies out here walking around plotting their strategies for the day and getting ready.

I want to thank everyone who has worked so hard on this, and all the people who helped to sponsor it. But mostly, I just want to welcome all the boys and girls here, all the families here, and to thank all of you for being a part of this wonderful American tradition. I hope you have a terrific time today. I assure you that we're having a terrific time having you here. And I think we ought to start. Are you ready to start?

AUDIENCE: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Now we've got to get everybody lined up. Line them up for the first roll. Now everybody, let me just say, everybody who is here will get a -- all the children who are here, not every adult, all the children who are here will get a souvenir egg. Okay? And some of them were signed not just by the First Lady and me -- some were signed by Socks. They're more valuable.

Are we ready? All right, when I blow the whistle we're all going to start. Okay? So when I blow the whistle, all of you cheer the kids on who are over there in the roll. Have we got a deal? All right let's go. One, two, three, go!

END9:47 A.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 2, 1999

EASTER, 1999

Warm greetings to everyone celebrating Easter.

Today Christians across America and around the world commemorate with great joy the central mystery of their faith: the Resurrection of Jesus. In this season, we celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death, and we rejoice in the new life that He won for us through His suffering, death, and rising from the dead.

That new life empowers us to overcome sin and to recognize our capacity for forgiveness and love. We have seen in our own communities and in other nations across the globe the violence and human tragedy spawned by hatred, intolerance, and fear born of ignorance. If we are to destroy the roots of hatred, we must examine our own hearts and actions and learn what we can and must do to build just communities united in understanding and mutual respect. ~~May this sacred season of renewal, hope, and new beginnings inspire our efforts and light our way to a brighter, more peaceful future. Now,~~

~~Hillary joins me in~~ extending best wishes for a blessed and joyous Easter celebration.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 24, 1999

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATION

The Oval Office

8:01 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: My fellow Americans, today our Armed Forces joined our NATO allies in air strikes against Serbian forces responsible for the brutality in Kosovo. We have acted with resolve for several reasons.

We act to protect thousands of innocent people in Kosovo from a mounting military offensive. We act to prevent a wider war; to diffuse a powder keg at the heart of Europe that has exploded twice before in this century with catastrophic results. And we act to stand united with our allies for peace. By acting now we are upholding our values, protecting our interests and advancing the cause of peace.

Tonight I want to speak to you about the tragedy in Kosovo and why it matters to America that we work with our allies to end it. First, let me explain what it is we are responding to. Kosovo is a province of Serbia, in the middle of southeastern Europe, about 160 miles east of Italy. That's less than the distance between Washington and New York, and only about 70 miles north of Greece. Its people are mostly ethnic Albanian and mostly Muslim.

In 1989, Serbia's leader, Slobadan Milosevic, the same leader who started the wars in Bosnia and Croatia, and moved against Slovenia in the last decade, stripped Kosovo of the constitutional autonomy its people enjoyed; thus denying them their right to speak their language, run their schools, shape their daily lives. For years, Kosovars struggled peacefully to get their rights back. When President Milosevic sent his troops and police to crush them, the struggle grew violent.

Last fall our diplomacy, backed by the threat of force from our NATO Alliance, stopped the fighting for a while, and rescued tens of thousands of people from freezing and starvation in the hills where they had fled to save their lives. And last month, with out allies and Russia, we proposed a peace agreement to end the fighting for good. The Kosovar leaders signed that agreement last week. Even though it does not give them all they want, even though their people were still being savaged, they saw that a just peace is better than a long and unwinnable war.

The Serbian leaders, on the other hand, refused even to discuss key elements of the peace agreement. As the Kosovars were saying "yes" to peace, Serbia stationed 40,000 troops in and around Kosovo in preparation for a major offensive -- and in clear violation of the commitments they had made.

Now, they've started moving from village to village, shelling civilians and torching their houses. We've seen innocent people

taken from their homes, forced to kneel in the dirt and sprayed with bullets; Kosovar men dragged from their families, fathers and sons together, lined up and shot in cold blood. This is not war in the traditional sense. It is an attack by tanks and artillery on a largely defenseless people, whose leaders already have agreed to peace.

Ending this tragedy is a moral imperative. It is also important to America's national interest. Take a look at this map. Kosovo is a small place, but it sits on a major fault line between Europe, Asia and the Middle East, at the meeting place of Islam and both the Western and Orthodox branches of Christianity. To the south are our allies, Greece and Turkey; to the north, our new democratic allies in Central Europe. And all around Kosovo there are other small countries, struggling with their own economic and political challenges -- countries that could be overwhelmed by a large, new wave of refugees from Kosovo. All the ingredients for a major war are there: ancient grievances, struggling democracies, and in the center of it all a dictator in Serbia who has done nothing since the Cold War ended but start new wars and pour gasoline on the flames of ethnic and religious division.

Sarajevo, the capital of neighboring Bosnia, is where World War I began. World War II and the Holocaust engulfed this region. In both wars Europe was slow to recognize the dangers, and the United States waited even longer to enter the conflicts. Just imagine if leaders back then had acted wisely and early enough, how many lives could have been saved, how many Americans would not have had to die.

We learned some of the same lessons in Bosnia just a few years ago. The world did not act early enough to stop that war, either. And let's not forget what happened -- innocent people herded into concentration camps, children gunned down by snipers on their way to school, soccer fields and parks turned into cemeteries; a quarter of a million people killed, not because of anything they have done, but because of who they were. Two million Bosnians became refugees. This was genocide in the heart of Europe -- not in 1945, but in 1995. Not in some grainy newsreel from our parents' and grandparents' time, but in our own time, testing our humanity and our resolve.

At the time, many people believed nothing could be done to end the bloodshed in Bosnia. They said, well, that's just the way those people in the Balkans are. But when we and our allies joined with courageous Bosnians to stand up to the aggressors, we helped to end the war. We learned that in the Balkans, inaction in the face of brutality simply invites more brutality. But firmness can stop armies and save lives. We must apply that lesson in Kosovo before what happened in Bosnia happens there, too.

Over the last few months we have done everything we possibly could to solve this problem peacefully. Secretary Albright has worked tirelessly for a negotiated agreement. Mr. Milosevic has refused.

On Sunday I sent Ambassador Dick Holbrooke to Serbia to make clear to him again, on behalf of the United States and our NATO allies, that he must honor his own commitments and stop his repression, or face military action. Again, he refused.

Today, we and our 18 NATO allies agreed to do what we said we would do, what we must do to restore the peace. Our mission is clear: to demonstrate the seriousness of NATO's

purpose so that the Serbian leaders understand the imperative of reversing course. To deter an even bloodier offensive against innocent civilians in Kosovo and, if necessary, to seriously damage the Serbian military's capacity to harm the people of Kosovo. In short, if President Milosevic will not make peace, we will limit his ability to make war.

Now, I want to be clear with you, there are risks in this military action -- risks to our pilots and the people on the ground. Serbia's air defenses are strong. It could decide to intensify its assault on Kosovo, or to seek to harm us or our allies elsewhere. If it does, we will deliver a forceful response.

Hopefully, Mr. Milosevic will realize his present course is self-destructive and unsustainable. If he decides to accept the peace agreement and demilitarize Kosovo, NATO has agreed to help to implement it with a peace-keeping force. If NATO is invited to do so, our troops should take part in that mission to keep the peace. But I do not intend to put our troops in Kosovo to fight a war.

Do our interests in Kosovo justify the dangers to our Armed Forces? I've thought long and hard about that question. I am convinced that the dangers of acting are far outweighed by the dangers of not acting -- dangers to defenseless people and to our national interests. If we and our allies were to allow this war to continue with no response, President Milosevic would read our hesitation as a license to kill. There would be many more massacres, tens of thousands more refugees, more victims crying out for revenge.

Right now our firmness is the only hope the people of Kosovo have to be able to live in their own country without having to fear for their own lives. Remember: We asked them to accept peace, and they did. We asked them to promise to lay down their arms, and they agreed. We pledged that we, the United States and the other 18 nations of NATO, would stick by them if they did the right thing. We cannot let them down now.

Imagine what would happen if we and our allies instead decided just to look the other way, as these people were massacred on NATO's doorstep. That would discredit NATO, the cornerstone on which our security has rested for 50 years now.

We must also remember that this is a conflict with no natural national boundaries. Let me ask you to look again at a map. The red dots are towns the Serbs have attacked. The arrows show the movement of refugees -- north, east and south. Already, this movement is threatening the young democracy in Macedonia, which has its own Albanian minority and a Turkish minority. Already, Serbian forces have made forays into Albania from which Kosovars have drawn support. Albania is a Greek minority. Let a fire burn here in this area and the flames will spread. Eventually, key U.S. allies could be drawn into a wider conflict, a war we would be forced to confront later -- only at far greater risk and greater cost.

I have a responsibility as President to deal with problems such as this before they do permanent harm to our national interests. America has a responsibility to stand with our allies when they are trying to save innocent lives and preserve peace, freedom and stability in Europe. That is what we are doing in Kosovo.

If we've learned anything from the century drawing to a close, it is that if America is going to be prosperous and secure, we need a Europe that is prosperous, secure undivided and free. We need a Europe that is coming together, not falling apart; a Europe that shares our values and shares the burdens of leadership. That is the foundation on which the security of our children will depend.

That is why I have supported the political and economic unification of Europe. That is why we brought Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic into NATO, and redefined its missions, and reached out to Russia and Ukraine for new partnerships.

Now, what are the challenges to that vision of a peaceful, secure, united, stable Europe? The challenge of strengthening a partnership with a democratic Russia, that, despite our disagreements, is a constructive partner in the work of building peace. The challenge of resolving the tension between Greece and Turkey and building bridges with the Islamic world. And, finally, the challenge of ending instability in the Balkans so that these bitter ethnic problems in Europe are resolved the force of argument, not the force of arms; so that future generations of Americans do not have to cross the Atlantic to fight another terrible war.

It is this challenge that we and our allies are facing in Kosovo. That is why we have acted now -- because we care about saving innocent lives; because we have an interest in avoiding an even crueler and costlier war; and because our children need and deserve a peaceful, stable, free Europe.

7:52/ Our thoughts and prayers tonight must be with the men and women of our Armed Forces who are undertaking this mission for the sake of our values and our children's future. ~~May God bless them and may God bless America~~ in know (1.5)

END

8:15 P.M. EST

Handwritten signature and scribbles



Jason H. Schechter
04/03/99 09:09:12 AM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: Embargoed Radio Address, April 3, 1999

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

Embargoed Until 10:06 AM EST
Saturday, April 3, 1999

RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE NATION

The Oval Office

THE PRESIDENT: As we gather in our homes during this sacred week to observe Easter and Passover, let us take a moment to think about the plight of the people in Kosovo, who have been forced from their homes by a campaign of violence and destruction, and who look to us for help and hope.

The tragedy in Kosovo has been mounting for over a year now. Over the last two weeks, Serbian forces have intensified their attacks against innocent civilians there, leaving no doubt about the cold, clear goal of their leader, Slobodan Milosevic -- to keep Kosovo's land while ridding it of its people.

Nearly one out of every three people in Kosovo has been made homeless since the start of this conflict. Even before the recent surge, well over a quarter of a million people had been displaced. Every hour of every day more arrive at Kosovo's borders, tired, hungry, shaken by what they have been through.

Among them are elderly people, who have lived their whole lives in peace with their neighbors, only to be told now to leave everything behind in minutes or to be killed on

the spot. Among them are small children who walked for miles over mountains, sometimes after watching their fathers and uncles and brothers taken from them and shot before their eyes.

Some have been shelled by artillery on their long trek to safety. Many have had their identity papers and family records stolen and destroyed, their history in Kosovo erased, their very existence denied.

Our nation cannot do everything. We can't end all suffering; we can't stop all violence. But there are times when looking away simply is not an option. Right now, in the middle of Europe, at the doorstep of NATO, an entire people are being made to abandon their homeland or die -- not because of anything they've done, but simply because of who they are.

If there's one lesson we've learned in this century, it's that that kind of poison will spread if not stopped. If there's one pledge that binds the past and future generations, it is that we cannot allow people to be destroyed because of their ethnic or racial or religious groups -- when we do have the power to do something about it.

Our military mission in Kosovo is a difficult and dangerous one, but it's necessary and right, and we must stand with all our NATO allies to see it through. Our goal is to exact a very high price for Mr. Milosevic's policy of repression and to seriously diminish his military capacity to maintain that policy.

- -

MORE

We also must open our hearts and our arms to the innocent victims of this conflict. This week I authorized the expenditure of \$50 million in emergency funds to support the relief effort, and directed our military to do its part to get critical supplies to people in need. We'll work with the United Nations and with the many courageous volunteers working on the ground with non-governmental organizations from all around the world.

You can help, too. I urge you to call your local Red Cross or church-based charity and ask them how you can get involved. Together we'll provide food, water, and medicine, blankets, clothing and shelter to Kosovar refugees. We'll remind the victims of this conflict that for all they have lost they have not been abandoned or forgotten.

European countries are helping as well. Kosovo's neighbors, Macedonia and Albania, are taking the refugees in, despite the huge burden this places on these poor, struggling nations; so are Greece, Bosnia and Bulgaria -- showing there's more mercy than madness in the Balkans, more compassion than cruelty in this troubled region of the world.

All of us want to provide for the refugees; all of us want to make it possible for them to return home. Let us do our part for all the innocent people whose lives have been shattered by this conflict. And let us give our thanks to our men and women in uniform who

are risking their lives today for our ideals, our interests, and their lives.

Let us keep in our prayers the three brave American servicemen now being held without justification in Belgrade that they may return to us soon. Let us do what we can -- and what we must -- for peace to prevail. And let us stay the course until it does.

Thanks for listening.

END

Message Sent To: _____

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 27, 1999

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATION

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. Three days ago I decided the United States should join our NATO allies in military air strikes to bring peace to Kosovo. In my address to the nation last Wednesday, I explained why we have taken this step -- to save the lives of innocent civilians in Kosovo from a brutal military offensive; to defuse a powder keg at the heart of Europe that has exploded twice before in this century with catastrophic results; to prevent a wider war we would have to confront later, only at far greater risk and cost; to stand with our NATO allies for peace.

Our military operation has been underway for several nights now. In this time, Serb troops have continued attacks on unarmed men, women and children. That is all the more reason for us to stay the course. We must, and we will, continue until Serbia's leader, Slobodan Milosevic, accepts peace or we have seriously damaged his capacity to make war.

As always, America's military men and women are performing with courage and skill. Their strength comes from rigorous training, state of the art weaponry and hard-won experience in this part of the world. This is the same brave and tested force that brought stability to Bosnia after four years of vicious war. I am confident they will once again rise to the task.

Some of them are fighter pilots, some are bombers, some are mechanics, technicians, air traffic controllers and base personnel. Every time I visit our troops around the world I am struck by their professionalism, their quiet, unassuming determination. They always say, this is the job I was trained to do. They don't see themselves as heroes, but we surely do.

I've also been deeply impressed by the solidarity of NATO's purpose. All 19 NATO nations are providing support, from Norway to Turkey, from England to Italy, from Germany and France to our neighbors in Canada, including our three allies from Central Europe, the new NATO members: Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic.

And we should remember the courage of the Kosovar people today, still exposed to violence and brutality. Many Americans, now, have heard the story of a young Kosovar girl trying to stay in touch with a friend in America by e-mail, as a Serb attack began in her own village. Just a few days ago she wrote, "at the moment, just from my balcony, I can see people running with suitcases, and I can hear some gunshots. A village just a few hundred meters from my house is all surrounded. As long as I have electricity, I will continue writing to you. I'm trying to keep myself as calm as possible. My younger brother, who is nine, is sleeping now. I wish I will not have to stop his dreams."

We asked these people of Kosovo to accept peace, and they did. We promised them we would stick by them if they did the right thing, and they did. We cannot let them down now.

Americans have learned the hard way that our home is not that far from Europe. Through two World Wars and a long Cold War, we saw that it was a short step from a small brushfire to an inferno, especially in the

tinderbox of the Balkans. The time to put out a fire is before it spreads and burns down the neighborhood. By acting now, we're taking a strong step toward a goal that has always been in our national interest -- a peaceful, united, democratic Europe. For America there is no greater calling than being a peacemaker. But sometimes you have to fight in order to end the fighting.

Let me end now by repeating how proud all Americans are of the men and women in uniform risking their lives to protect peace in the Balkans. Our prayers are with them. And our prayers are with all the people of the Balkans searching for the strength to put centuries of divisions to rest, and to join Europe and North America in building a better future together.

Thanks for listening.

END

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Norfolk, Virginia)

For Immediate Release

April 1, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO HAMPTON ROADS MILITARY COMMUNITY

Norfolk Naval Station
Norfolk, Virginia

1:17 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. I'm just curious, can you all hear me out there?

AUDIENCE: No.

THE PRESIDENT: The echo is pretty bad, isn't it. Well, if I speak louder, is it better or worse? No difference. I'll do the best I can.

First, I'd like to thank Secretary Cohen and General Shelton for their truly outstanding service in our administration at a difficult time. I'd like to thank Admiral Gehman, Admiral Reason, General Pace, General Keck, and the other leaders of all the forces represented here.

I thank Secretary Danzig, National Security Advisor Berger, and others who came with me from the White House. Mayor Oberndorf, thank you for welcoming me to Virginia Beach.

I'd like to say a special word of appreciation to the members of Congress who are here -- your representatives, Congressman Scott and Sisisky; Senator Levin, our ranking member of the Armed Services Committee; and a special thanks to my longtime friend, Senator Chuck Robb, who is one of the most courageous members of the United States Congress and Virginia is very fortunate to be represented by him.

Let me say to all of you, I came here today primarily to thank two groups of people -- our men and women in uniform, and their families, for the service and sacrifice that makes America strong.

I just met a few moments ago with several members of families -- spouses and children of members of four different services who are deployed away from here now. They're all over here to my right. And whatever it is you would like to say to me today, I think there's a very good chance they said it. They did a very good job for you, and I'm very proud of them. (Applause.)

I heard about the financial sacrifices and I heard about human sacrifices. I don't think that anyone could say it better than this lady over here with this beautiful baby in the red hat, with the "I miss you, Daddy" sign. I thank you. And this sign, "I love my TR sailor, support our troops."

I wanted to come here today because I want America to know that the sacrifices made by our men and women in uniform are fully mirrored by their families back home, by the opportunities that are missed to be with wives and husbands and children on birthdays and holidays, and just

being there for the kids when they're needed at night and in the morning as they go off to school. They are fully felt in terms of the financial sacrifices of the family members left at home to pay the bills and see to the health care and other needs of the children.

And America should know that and should be very, very grateful to all of you. We are grateful and we think all Americans will be grateful as they know what you do.

Let me also say I had a chance to speak just before I came out here with the 510th Fighter Squadron at Aviano Air Base in Italy, part of our Operation Allied Force in Kosovo, to thank them and to hear of their immense pride and determination in their mission.

I know that many, many people here have friends or family members who are working hard in our mission in Kosovo. I know this port is home to 100 ships, not only the powerful battle groups now at sea led by the Enterprise and the Theodore Roosevelt, but also ships in the Adriatic -- guided missile destroyers like the Gonzalez; fast-attack submarines like the Norfolk. (Applause.) Yes, you can clap for your ships, that's okay. (Applause.)

I can't name every ship or every unit, but I know that all of you are proud of all of them. Again, let me say, too, a special word of thanks to the family members of those who are deployed in the Kosovo operation now.

And let me say to all of you, we spend a lot of time -- perhaps more time than you would think -- in the White House, and at the Pentagon, talking about our obligations to the families of our service members. We know that we are asking more and more of you as we have downsized the military, and diversified and increased the number of our operations around the world. We know that the more we ask of you, the greater our responsibilities to you.

We know that we owe you the support, the training, the equipment you need to get the job done. We know we owe you fair pay, decent housing, and other support. Our new defense budget contains not only a substantial pay raise, but increased funding to keep our readiness razor-sharp. It is our solemn obligation to those of you who accept the dangers and hardships of our common security.

Since the Cold War ended, we have asked more and more from our Armed Forces -- from the Persian Gulf to Korea, to Central America to Africa -- today to stand with our allies in NATO against the unspeakable brutality in Kosovo.

Now, this is not an easy challenge with a simple answer. If it were, it would have been resolved a long time ago. The mission I have asked our Armed Forces to carry out with our NATO allies is a dangerous one, as I have repeatedly said. Danger is something the brave men and women of our country's Armed Forces understand because you live with it every day, even in routine training exercises.

Now, we all know that yesterday three Army infantrymen were seized as they were carrying out a peaceful mission in Macedonia -- protecting that country from the violence in neighboring Kosovo. There was absolutely no basis for them to be taken. There is no basis for them to be held. There is certainly no basis for them to be tried. All Americans are concerned about their welfare.

President Milosevic should make no mistake: The United States takes care of its own. (Applause.) And President Milosevic should make no mistake: We will hold him and his government responsible for their safety and for their well-being.

But I ask you also to resolve that we will continue to carry out our mission with determination and resolve.

Over the past few weeks I have been talking with the American people about why we're involved with our NATO allies in Kosovo, and the risks of our mission and why they're justified. It's especially important that I speak to you and, through you, to all men and women in uniform about these matters.

The roots of this conflict lie in the policies of Mr. Milosevic, the dictator of Serbia. For more than 10 years now, he has been using ethnic and religious hatred as a path to personal power and a justification for the ethnic cleansing and murder of innocent civilians. That is what he did first in Bosnia and Croatia, where the United States with our allies did so much to end the war. And that is what he is doing in Kosovo today. That is what he will continue to do to his own people and his neighbors unless we and our allies stand in the way.

For months, we tried and tried and tried every conceivable peaceful alternative. We did everything we could through diplomacy to solve this problem. With diplomacy backed by the threat of NATO force, we forged a cease-fire last October that rescued from cold and hunger hundreds of thousands of people in Kosovo whom he had driven from their homes.

In February, with our allies and with Russia, we proposed a peace agreement that would have given the people of Kosovo the autonomy they were guaranteed under their constitution before Mr. Milosevic came to power, and ended the fighting for good.

Now, the Kosovar leaders, they signed that agreement -- even though it didn't give them the independence they said they wanted, and that they had been fighting for. But Mr. Milosevic refused. In fact, while pretending to negotiate for peace, he massed 40,000 troops and hundreds of tanks in and around Kosovo, planning a new campaign of destruction and defiance. He started carrying out that campaign the moment the peace talks ended.

Now the troops and police of the Serbian dictator are rampaging through tiny Kosovo -- separating men from their families, executing many of them in cold blood; burning homes -- sometimes, we now hear, with people inside; forcing survivors to leave everything behind, confiscating their identity papers, destroying their records so their history and their property is erased forever.

Yesterday, Mr. Milosevic actually said, this problem can only be solved by negotiations. But yesterday, as he said that, his forces continued to hunt down the very Kosovar leaders with whom he was supposed to be negotiating.

Altogether now, more than half a million Kosovars have been pushed from their homes since the conflict began. They are arriving at the borders of the country, shaken by what they have seen and been through. But they also say -- as a delegation of Albanian Americans, many of whom have relatives in Kosovo, told me personally in the White House yesterday -- that NATO's military action has at least given them some hope that they have not been completely abandoned in their suffering.

Had we not acted, the Serbian offensive would have been carried out with impunity. We are determined that it will carry a very high price, indeed. We also act to prevent a wider war. If you saw my address to the country the other night and the maps that I showed, you know that Kosovo is a very small place. But it sits right at the dividing line of Europe, Asia and the Middle East; the dividing line between Islam and Christianity; close to our Turkish and Greek allies to the south, our

new allies, Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic to the north; surrounded by small and struggling democracies that easily could be overwhelmed by the flood of refugees Mr. Milosevic is creating.

Already, Macedonia is so threatened. Already, Serbian forces have made forays into Albania, which borders Kosovo. If we were to do nothing, eventually our allies and then the United States would be drawn into a larger conflict at far greater risks to our people and far greater costs.

Now, we can't respond to every tragedy in every corner of the world. But just because we can't do everything for everyone doesn't mean that for the sake of consistency we should do nothing for no one.

Remember now, these atrocities are happening at the door step of NATO, which has preserved the security of Europe for 50 years because of the alliance between the United States and our allies. They are happening in violation of specific commitments Mr. Milosevic gave to us, to our NATO allies, to other European countries and to Russia. They are happening to people who embrace peace and promise to lay down their own arms. They put their trust in us, and we can't let them down.

Our objective is to restore the Kosovars to their homes with security and self-government. Our bombing campaign is designed to exact an unacceptably high price for Mr. Milosevic's present policy of repression and ethnic cleansing, and to seriously diminish his military capacity to maintain that policy.

We've been doing this for seven days now -- just seven days. Our pilots have performed bravely and well, in the face of dangerous conditions and often abysmal weather. But we must be determined and patient. Remember, the Serbs had 40,000 troops in and around Kosovo, and nearly 300 tanks, when they began this, before the first NATO plane got in the air. They had a sophisticated air-defense system. They also have a problem which has been festering for a decade, thanks to the efforts of Mr. Milosevic to make people hate each other in the former Yugoslavia because they are Muslims instead of Orthodox Christians or Catholics; because they're Albanians instead of Serbians or Croatians, or Bosnian Muslims, or Macedonians, or you have -- whatever. It is appalling.

For decades, those people lived in peace with one another. For ten years and more, now, a dictator has sought to make himself powerful by convincing the largest group, the Serbs, that the only way they can amount to anything is to uproot, disrupt, destroy and kill other people who don't have the same means of destruction -- no matter what the consequences are to everybody around them; no matter how many innocent children and their parents die; no matter how much it disrupts other countries.

Why? Because they want power, and they want to base it on the kind of ethnic and religious hatred that is bedeviling the whole world today. You can see it in the Middle East, in Northern Ireland. You can see it in the tribal wars in Africa. You can see that it is one of the dominant problems the whole world faces. And this is right in the underbelly of Europe.

We have to decide whether we are going to take a stand with our NATO allies, and whether we are prepared to pay the price of time to make him pay the price of aggression and murder. Are we, in the last year of the 20th century, going to look the other way as entire peoples in Europe are forced to abandon their homelands or die? Are we going to impose a price on that kind of conduct and seek to end it?

Mr. Milosevic often justifies his behavior by talking about the history

of the Serbs going back to the 14th century. Well, I value the history of this country, and I value what happened here in the 18th century. But I don't want to take America back to the 18th century. And he acts like he wants to take Serbia back to the 14th century -- to 14th century values, 14th century ways of looking at other human beings.

We are on the edge of a new century and a new millennium, where the people in poor countries all over the world, because of technology and the Internet and the spreading of information will have unprecedented opportunities to share prosperity, and to give their kids an education, and have a decent future, if only they will live in peace with the basic human regard for other people -- that is absolutely anathetical to everything that Mr. Milosevic has done. anethetic

So I ask you -- you say, what has this got to do with America? Remember, we fought two world wars in Europe. Remember that the unity, the freedom, the prosperity, the peace of Europe is important to the future of the children in this room today. That is, in the end, what this is about.

We're not doing this on our own. We could not have undertaken it on our own. This is something we're doing with our NATO allies. They're up there in the air, too. If there's a peace agreement, they've agreed to provide 85 percent of the troops on the ground to help to monitor the peace agreement and protect all the ethnic groups, including the Serbs.

This is something we are doing to try to avoid in the 21st century the kind of widespread war, large American casualties and heartbreak that we saw too much of in the century we are about to leave.

So this is not just about a small peace of the Balkans. But let me ask you something. When we are moved by the plight of three servicemen, when we stay up half the night hoping that our rescue teams find that fine pilot who went down when his plane was hit, when we see a sign that says, "I love my TR sailor" or "I miss my Daddy," we remember that all political and military decisions ultimately have a human component that is highly individualized.

Think how you would feel if you were part of the half million people who lived peaceably in a place, just wanted to be let alone to practice your religion and educate your children and do your work -- if people came to your house and your village and said, pack up your belongings and go; we're going to burn your property records, we're going to burn your identity records. And if your husband or your son is of military service age, we might take them out behind the barn and shoot them dead -- just because you have a different religion, just because you have a different ethnic background. Is that really what we want the 21st century to be about for our children?

Now, that is what is at stake here. We cannot do everything in the world, but we must do what we can. We can never forget the Holocaust, the genocide, the carnage of the 20th century. We don't want the new century to bring us the same nightmares in a different guise.

We also want to say again how proud the United States is that each of NATO's 19 members is supporting the mission in Kosovo in some way -- France and Germany, Turkey and Greece, Poland and Hungary, the Czech Republic, Britain, Canada -- all the others. And this is also important.

Let me finally say -- I'd like to read you something. Near the end of the second world war, President Roosevelt prepared a speech to give at a holiday honoring Virginia's famous son, Thomas Jefferson. He never got to give the speech. But it still speaks to us, his last words. And to those of you who wear the uniform of our nation and to those of you who

are part of the families of our uniformed service members, I ask you to heed these words.

After the long war was almost drawing to a close, these were Franklin Roosevelt's last words that he never got to deliver: "We as Americans do not choose to deny our responsibilities. Nor do we intend to abandon our determination that within the lives of our children and our children's children, there will not be a third world war. We seek peace, enduring peace. More than an end to war, we want an end to the beginnings of all wars."

That is what we are trying to achieve in Kosovo. That is what many of you in this room, perhaps, and your colleagues, did achieve in Bosnia. We want to end a war that has begun in Europe, and prevent a larger war. And we want to alleviate the burdens and the killing of defenseless people. Let us heed President Roosevelt's last words.

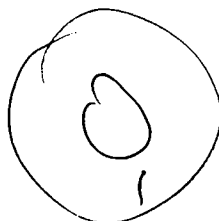
Let me say again, for those of you who serve and for those of you who serve as family members, and who sacrifice as wives and husbands and children: I thank you for your service and your sacrifice, and America thanks you.

God bless you. (Applause.)

END

1:42 P.M. EST

EF



214 99655

REDD9

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR WHITE HOUSE EASTER EGG ROLL

THE WHITE HOUSE

APR 3 99
MARCH 31, 1997

197 MAR 28 PM 8:01

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

3-31-97

1

We're going to start another Easter Egg roll in just a few moments. Before we do, I want to join Hillary in thanking all of the sponsors who helped make this celebration possible. I especially want to thank ^(the really good) all the volunteers who have worked so hard -- ^{near} more than 500 of you this year. I know that many of you have helped before, but I see a lot of new faces every year.

wore here early
hit some
fatty, empty set up.

I also want to

(B)

Real

I also.
want to thank
people who ~~help~~ ^{chef}
~~for~~
for being doing
new 10,000 eggs.
for this event.

That's because people see how much fun you're having out here, and how much volunteering can help children and families. And all across our country, in every community in America, there are hundreds of ways for all of us to get involved. I hope that this year, in the renewing spirit of Easter and Passover, more Americans will find the time to give something back to their communities.

But we ~~by~~ begin

The Easter Egg Roll has been a White House tradition for 118 years, and I haven't missed it once since I became President -- even this year, when I can't make it down to the lawn. Hillary and I have always tried to make it ^{Mid} an occasion for family fun and for family learning, because we all know how important it is for children -- especially very young children -- to learn together with their parents.

3

4
This year's activities will show you how much fun

learning can be. I'm especially proud of our ~~"Learn Big~~
Things" tent where, for the very first time at the Easter Egg
Roll, you can learn to log on to the Internet and visit our
Homepage at "whitehouse.gov" [Whitehouse dot G-O-V].

- 5 -

Once you're there, you can find out more about Easter at the White House, and you can even send me an E-Mail message. A lot of you kids have probably explored the Internet at school already, but there are still a lot of schools that don't have computers, and whose students have never visited a website.

- 6 -

That's why we're working so hard to make sure that all of our schools are connected to the Internet by the year 2000.

Planning for Learning
"Learn Big Things" is just one of the many activities we have in store for you today. You can ^{also} learn how to use CD-ROM's at the same time you learn about ~~the importance of~~ good nutrition at the "Learning Adventures" tent.

(D)
(L)
(S)
(L)
u d l l

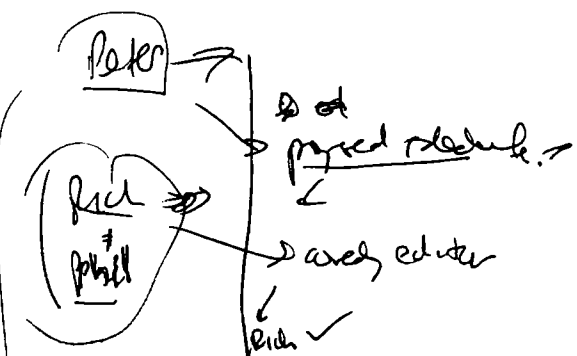
- 7 -

~~senior members of the church~~
~~of members of my~~

casket + Sr stall.

And there are storytelling booths, egg painting contests and lots of other things for you to do together as a family. I hope you'll all have a great time.

And now, I'm going to blow the whistle to start another Easter Egg Roll. On your marks, get ready, set . . . GO!



April 20, 2000

POTUS PARTICIPATION IN ANNUAL WHITE HOUSE EASTER EGG ROLL

DATE: Monday, April 24

LOCATION: Reception, State Floor
Event, South Lawn

TIME: 9:30 a.m. - 10:35 a.m.

STAFF CONTACT: Melinda Bates, 6-2324

I. PURPOSE

You participate in this annual White House Easter event by hosting a breakfast reception with receiving line for event sponsors, making remarks from a stage on the driveway, and blowing a whistle to start the egg rolling.

II. BACKGROUND

This is a traditional White House event, since Rutherford and Lucy Hayes, dating back to 1878. This is the 122nd White House Easter Egg Roll. We expect 30,000 guests. 250 terminally ill or disabled children from hospitals and hospice care in the Washington area are the first on the lawn at 8:00 am.

As always, children will again roll and dye eggs on the lawn. A 40' giant nest is available for children to play in. Presidential re-enactors, Cabinet Secretaries, the Chief of Staff, and others present stories, music and fables on five stages. This year's celebrity readers are Robert DeNiro, Julie Andrews, Deborah Norville, JK Rowling (author of *Harry Potter*), Mary Steenburgen and Ted Danson, Lance and Justin from *'N Sync*, and Christopher Paul Curtis, who won both the Newberry Award and the Coretta Scott King award for *Bud Not Buddy*. He is the first person to win both at once, and the first African American to win the Newberry.

"Beatrix Potter" and "Paddington Bear" join a host of other Easter and White House related strolling performers and costumed characters on the lawn.

Once again embassies are showcased in Springtime Traditions. Kodak provides digital photos with the White House in the background for families. Dole Foods sponsors musical stage entertainment about good nutrition. Each child takes home a souvenir wooden Easter egg, an Easter Egg Roll poster, a souvenir historical map of the south lawn (provided by Jane Rosenthal, Craig Hadkoff and Robert DeNiro), a *Prescription for Reading* bookmark, and an Easter Egg

Roll Book. 20,000 of these gifts will be given out. Our Easter Egg Roll producer is Gary Jacob, who has done this work for you for seven years.

In 1998 the Egg Roll was cybercast for the first time. We did not repeat the cybercast in 1999, because the audio and video technology was not yet as developed (clear) as we hoped. Now, in just two years, the technology has shot ahead with dramatic improvements in audio and video feeds. In the US alone, there are now 100 million computers with the capacity to hear and see this broadcast. Therefore, we have arranged that the 2000 Easter Egg Roll will be broadcast over the Internet, both on the day of the event, and, as archived material, for months after. Web users can link to the cybercast at the White House web site, at the Department of Education site, at EarthLink (world's second largest ISP) and at over 100 top Internet sites, including the most popular children's and educational sites.

Because of this cybercast, more people will be able to see and hear this final Clinton Egg Roll than all the people who have attended White House Easter Egg Rolls since 1878. You are truly opening the White House to the public in ways not imagined just a few years ago. Because anyone with a computer at home, at work, in a library or classroom will be invited "in" to the Egg Roll, it becomes more inclusive and engaging than ever before. This cybercast project is produced for us by Howard Lefkowitz, senior vice president of EarthLink, Inc.

III. PARTICIPANTS

HRC

180 Reception guests, sponsors, contributors

IV. PRESS PLAN

Pool press for your remarks

National Press for nightly news

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

You host sponsors and celebrity entertainers at a breakfast on the State Floor. These guests arrive on the State Floor at 8:30 am. You both go to the Blue Room at 9:30 am. There you receive the framed, original poster/program art from artist Mary Engelbreit of St. Louis. This is the first year the same artist provides the program and poster and egg art. She is a very popular and well known artist. Mary is accompanied by her mother.

You both then receive the annual special egg from American Egg Board Chairman Dolph Baker and President Lou Raffel. This egg was created by Natalie Stedman of Canandaigua, NY, a graduate of Pratt Institute School of Design. This blue egg has a jeweled door which opens to

reveal the artist's interpretation of the First Lady's office. The view from the desk looks out the "window of opportunity" Mrs. Clinton has opened for so many during her years of service. Placed throughout the office are symbols of causes she has supported: a teddy bear for children, a medical symbol for health care, pictures to reflect her love of the arts.

You then greet all the sponsor guests, celebrities and their families in a receiving line. There are approximately 40 children in these family groups.

At 10:00 am you and the First Lady exit the state floor by the Red Room door, descending the steps to a stage on the driveway while the Marine Band plays *In Your Easter Bonnet*. On stage Mrs. Clinton makes brief remarks, then you make remarks, and blow the whistle handed to you by Bernie Fairbanks or a bunny. The egg roll lanes are directly in front of the stage; press are to your right. This year you will have a special whistle, in your pocket, to give back to Bernie Fairbanks, thanking him for his many years of Easter Egg Roll service. You then exit the stage, working the ropeline, if you wish. Some of your friends are gathered on the driveway to your left.

You proceed to the Diplomatic Reception Room. There you greet a Make-a-Wish family, XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.

Next you greet guests from Easter Seals, in the Oval Office. (?)

VI. REMARKS

2 minutes

Remarks to be provided by Speech writing

April 20, 2000

WHITE HOUSE EASTER EGG ROLL
APRIL 24, 2000
EVENT OVERVIEW

Not for release until Monday, April 24

CELEBRITIES

- Julie Andrews reading her book *Little Bo*
- Deborah Norville reading her book *I Don't Want To Sleep Tonight*
- J.K. Rowling reading from one of her *Harry Potter* books
- Two members of 'N Sync will host reading stages (Lance and Justin)
- Robert De Niro, reading with Jane Rosenthal and Craig Hadkoff
- Mary Engelbreit, artist, is not performing, but she is our 2000 poster, program and egg artist. She is extremely well known and popular.

READERS

- Christopher Paul Curtis reading his Newberry Award winning *Bud, Not Buddy*
- Many Cabinet Secretaries reading favorite children's stories
- Irene Smalls reading her book *Dawn and the Round Tuit*
- *Berenstein Bears* read
- Chambers Elementary 3rd Grade readers (East Cleveland)

PERFORMERS

- Historical Interpreters: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Benjamin Bannecker
- Battersby Duo, The Bits Troupe, David Grover and the Big Bear Band, Parachute Express, Odds Bodkin, Pamlico Joe, Chaz Rough, Odds Bodkin
- Regina Ress as Beatrix Potter

SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

- Dole: performance stage, a musical about good nutrition featuring Barney Broccoli and Bobby Banana
- EarthLink: *Click!* tent, Apple computers, children send email messages to POTUS
- PAAS: egg decorating

- Springtime Traditions: many embassies display their country's special celebrations, religious and secular
- Kodak, digital photos of visitors on the lawn, several sites
- Giant Nest of Life, this year has a performance stage attached to it
- Teddy Bear Tea Party: photo op
- Krispy Kreme bunny coloring

TECHNOLOGY

This year the Easter Egg Roll will be cybercast. Eight cameras on the lawn will capture performances, readings, activities, and the President's and First Lady's remarks. Unlike the cybercast of 1998, this will be a wireless project. The audio and video is captured with cameras and fed to a microwave truck parked on the grass on E. Exec. Av. From there it is sent up to a satellite, where it is encoded for Internet sites to pick up.

There are now 100 million users in the US with the capacity to see and hear this event. We will provide links from the WH web site, EarthLink, (world's second largest ISP) the top 100 web sites (Yahoo, Excite, etc), the Dept of Education, and the top children's and educational sites. Some of the celebrity readings will be available for viewing for about two weeks. The rest of the event will be available for several months.

Amazon.com is sponsoring six kid reporters who will be covering the event, interviewing celebrities, performers, George Washington, etc, and filing stories from their press room, attached to the Click! tent. The children were selected by school superintendents in the Philadelphia and Washington DC areas.

All this material will be archived for the President's library, and for the National Park Service.

LAWN CHARACTERS

- The White House bunnies
- Paddington Bear
- Peter Rabbit
- Rapid Rabbit, and others

NEW THIS YEAR

We are moving one of the egg rolls to the area south of the fountain. Half of our visitors enter the lawn at the SE gate. We will direct them to the south egg roll and many activities in that area. The other half of our population (staff and guests) enter through the Kennedy Garden. They will find an egg roll in the traditional location in front of the S. Portico. We hope this change will improve traffic flow.

GIVE AWAYS

- On the lawn: M&M Mars candy tubes, as children finish rolling eggs
- As they exit: a wooden Easter egg for each child, and a large clear plastic envelope containing
 - Easter poster (Mary Engelbreit)
 - S. Lawn map by Craig Hatkoff, Jane Rosenthal and Robert De Niro,
 - White House Easter Egg Roll* book with a new cover design for 2000
 - Large postcard painting of Egg Roll 1920s, from WH Historical Association
 - Bookmark *Prescription For Reading*, signed by Mrs. Clinton and Surgeon General
- Sponsor bags, one per family as Reception guests exit to Lawn: Poster, egg, map, egg cookbook, various Easter books (It's a GREAT bag)

ON THE ELLIPSE

- Give Aways: Bunny Bundles (scrambled egg in pita), Dole juice, raisins, Krispy Kreme donuts, Walkers Shortbread
- Activities costumed characters and performers
- Hormel *Kids Kitchen* reading activities

EF

26260455
RED09

Draft 4/10/98 2pm

'98 APR 10 PM2:41

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON

REMARKS AT THE WHITE HOUSE

EASTER EGG ROLL

THE SOUTH LAWN

April 13, 1998

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
4-13-98

- 1 -

Good Morning. I want to welcome you for this very special day, thank all the volunteers who were here early this morning getting everything set up, and thank the sponsors who have made all of this possible.

2

The very first time an Easter Egg Roll was held at the White House was way back in 1878, when Rutherford B. Hayes was President -- that was about the time your great, great, great grandparents were your age. Nowadays, we're combining this wonderful old tradition with some of the newest technologies around. Usually when you think of the Easter Egg Roll, you think of eggs and bunnies.

Today, we're also adding the mouse. Not just Woodrow the White House mouse, but also the kind of mouse that's attached to a computer.

the year
A

million

~~For the first time ever, hundreds of thousands~~ of children in classrooms, homes, and libraries all over the world will be able to use their computers to join us for this Easter Egg Roll.

- 4 -

Thanks to the special cameras you'll see out on the lawn, they can watch all of the activities and learn about the Internet at the same time. In fact, I'm told that this will be the largest live Internet event ever held. I'm glad you are here to be part of this historic day.

And now, are you ready to roll? # # #

April 20, 2000

POTUS PARTICIPATION IN ANNUAL WHITE HOUSE EASTER EGG ROLL

DATE: Monday, April 24

LOCATION: Reception, State Floor
Event, South Lawn

TIME: 9:30 a.m. - 10:35 a.m.

STAFF CONTACT: Melinda Bates, 6-2324

I. PURPOSE

You participate in this annual White House Easter event by hosting a breakfast reception with receiving line for event sponsors, making remarks from a stage on the driveway, and blowing a whistle to start the egg rolling.

II. BACKGROUND

This is a traditional White House event, since Rutherford and Lucy Hayes, dating back to 1878. This is the 122nd White House Easter Egg Roll. We expect 30,000 guests. 250 terminally ill or disabled children from hospitals and hospice care in the Washington area are the first on the lawn at 8:00 am.

As always, children will again roll and dye eggs on the lawn. A 40' giant nest is available for children to play in. Presidential re-enactors, Cabinet Secretaries, the Chief of Staff, and others present stories, music and fables on five stages. This year's celebrity readers are Robert DeNiro, Julie Andrews, Deborah Norville, JK Rowling (author of *Harry Potter*), Mary Steenburgen and Ted Danson, Lance and Justin from *'N Sync*, and Christopher Paul Curtis, who won both the Newberry Award and the Coretta Scott King award for *Bud Not Buddy*. He is the first person to win both in the same year, and the first African American to win the Newberry.

"Beatrix Potter" and "Paddington Bear" join a host of other Easter and White House related strolling performers and costumed characters on the lawn.

Once again embassies are showcased in Springtime Traditions. Kodak provides digital photos with the White House in the background for families. Dole Foods sponsors musical stage entertainment about good nutrition. Each child takes home a souvenir wooden Easter egg, an Easter Egg Roll poster, a souvenir historical map of the south lawn (provided by Jane Rosenthal,

Craig Hadkoff and Robert DeNiro), a *Prescription for Reading* bookmark, and an Easter Egg Roll Book. 20,000 of these gifts will be given out. Our Easter Egg Roll producer is Gary Jacob, who has done this work for you for seven years.

In 1998 the Egg Roll was cybercast for the first time. We did not repeat the cybercast in 1999, because the audio and video technology was not yet as developed (clear) as we hoped. Now, in just two years, the technology has shot ahead with dramatic improvements in audio and video feeds. In the US alone, there are now 100 million computers with the capacity to hear and see this broadcast. Therefore, we have arranged that the 2000 Easter Egg Roll will be broadcast over the Internet, both on the day of the event, and, as archived material, for months after. Web users can link to the cybercast at the White House web site, at the Department of Education site, at EarthLink (world's second largest ISP) and at over 100 top Internet sites, including the most popular children's and educational sites.

Because of this cybercast, more people will be able to see and hear this final Clinton Egg Roll than all the people who have attended White House Easter Egg Rolls since 1878. You are truly opening the White House to the public in ways not imagined just a few years ago. Because anyone with a computer at home, at work, in a library or classroom will be invited "in" to the Egg Roll, it becomes more inclusive, engaging and educational than ever before. The cybercast of this event changes it forever in many of the ways you have both emphasized: it opens the White House to the people, it utilizes technology in easily accessible ways, and it promotes education in an enticing way. It is a true reinvention of government. This cybercast project is produced for us by Howard Lefkowitz, vice president of EarthLink, Inc., who brought us the original idea in 1998 and produced the first cybercast that year.

III. PARTICIPANTS

HRC

180 Reception guests, sponsors, contributors

IV. PRESS PLAN

Pool press for your remarks

National Press for nightly news

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

You host sponsors and celebrity entertainers at a breakfast on the State Floor. These guests arrive on the State Floor at 8:30 am. You both go to the Blue Room at 9:30 am. There you receive the framed, original poster/program art from artist Mary Engelbreit of St. Louis. This is the first

year the same artist provides the program and poster and egg art. She is a very popular and well known artist. Mary is accompanied by her mother.

You both then receive the annual special egg from American Egg Board Chairman Dolph Baker and President Lou Raffel. This egg was created by Natalie Stedman of Canandaigua, NY, a graduate of Pratt Institute School of Design. This blue egg has a jeweled door which opens to reveal the artist's interpretation of the First Lady's office. The view from the desk looks out the "window of opportunity" Mrs. Clinton has opened for so many during her years of service. Placed throughout the office are symbols of causes she has supported: a teddy bear for children, a medical symbol for health care, pictures to reflect her love of the arts.

You then greet all the sponsor guests, celebrities and their families in a receiving line. There are approximately 40 children in these family groups.

At 10:00 am you and the First Lady exit the state floor by the Red Room door, descending the steps to a stage on the driveway while the Marine Band plays *In Your Easter Bonnet*. On stage Mrs. Clinton makes brief remarks, then you make remarks, and blow the whistle handed to you by Bernie Fairbanks or a bunny. The egg roll lanes are directly in front of the stage; press are to your right. This year you will have a special whistle, in your pocket, to give back to Bernie Fairbanks, thanking him for his many years of Easter Egg Roll service. You then exit the stage, working the ropeline, if you wish. Some of your friends are gathered on the driveway to your left.

You proceed to the Diplomatic Reception Room. There you greet a Make-a-Wish family,
XXXXXXXXXXXXXX.

Next you greet guests from Easter Seals, in the Oval Office. (?)

VI. REMARKS

2 minutes

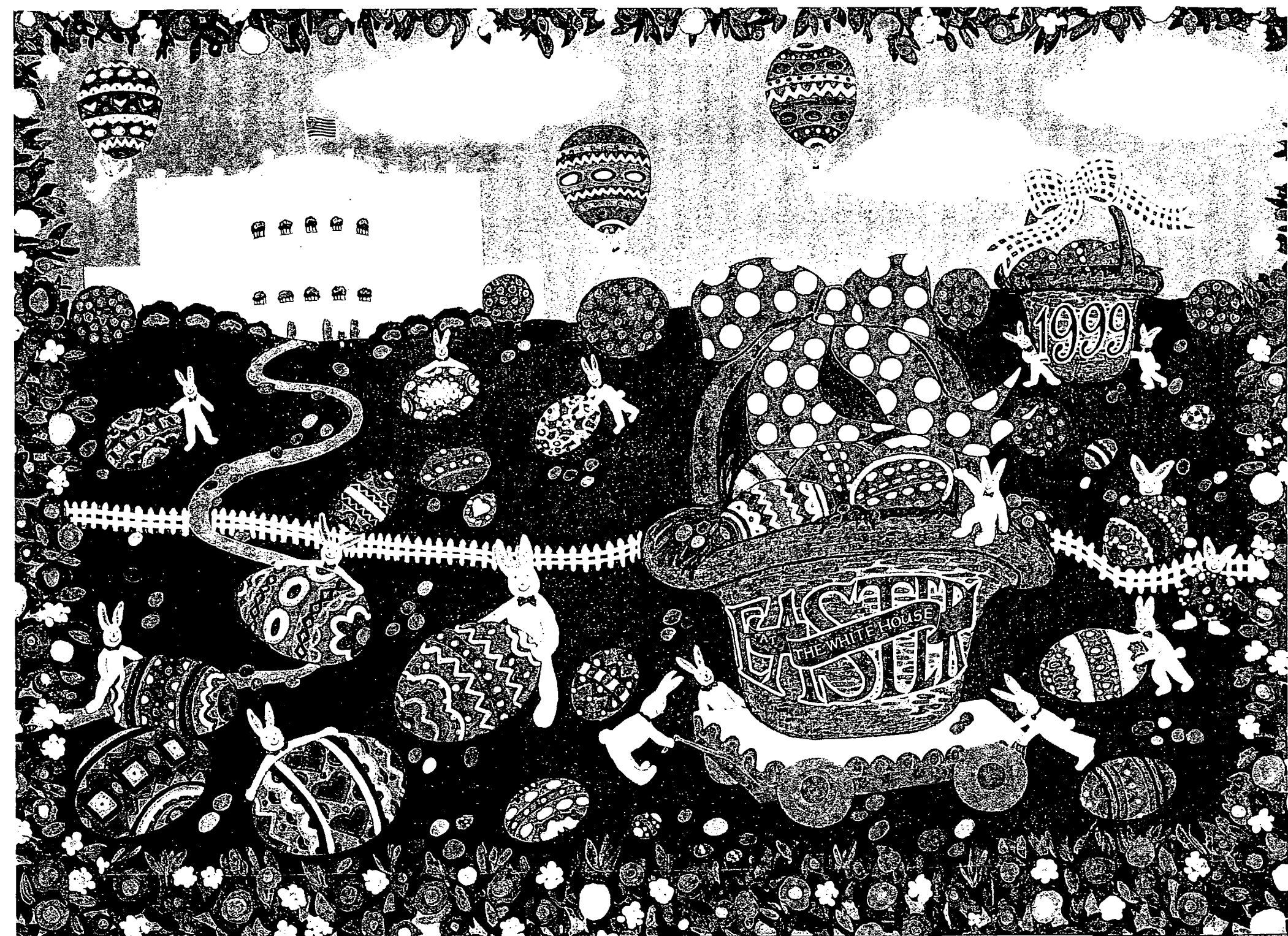
Remarks to be provided by Speech writing

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

This marker identifies the place of a publication.

Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.



White House Easter Roll 1999

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 13, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AND THE FIRST LADY
AT ANNUAL EASTER EGG ROLL

The South Lawn

10:12 A.M. EDT

MRS. CLINTON: Well, we want to welcome all of you to the 120th Easter Egg Roll. And we're especially pleased that the weather is so beautiful and that all of you could be here on the South Lawn of the White House. And I hope everybody on the Ellipse who is standing in line knows how happy we are to have you here as well.

So I hope you have a wonderful time. Everybody just enjoy yourself, and especially make sure that every child enjoys him or herself, and that every family will receive one of these little books as you leave about the Easter Egg Roll here at the White House. And be sure to look at your program because there are some wonderful events going on in the tents down at the end of the lawn.

So now it's my pleasure to introduce the President of the United States, who always starts the real activities of the Easter Egg Roll -- President Clinton. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Good morning. Isn't it a wonderful morning? Let me say, I want to thank all the volunteers and all the sponsors who've made this wonderful day possible for thousands and thousands of young people.

I also want to say that the first official White House Egg Roll occurred here in 1878 when President Rutherford Hayes was living in the White House. Now, a lot of things have changed since then, but the most important thing today that you need to know is that for the very first time, hundreds of thousands of young people will be experiencing the White House Egg Roll through the Internet, thanks to Earthlinks, and I want to thank them for that. (Applause.)

I'd also like to thank a number of others, and especially Sun Microsystems, for all the work that's been done to try to open the White House to people around the world and especially around our country. But this day is special because of what Earthlinks has done to let lots and lots of young people who never could come to the White House be part of the Egg Roll.

So, are we ready to start the Egg Roll?

MRS. CLINTON: Bernie's right here.

THE PRESIDENT: Bernie, where's the whistle? This is the one thing every year I know, no matter what else happens, I will do right. (Laughter.) Are you ready, kids? Are you ready? I'm going to count to three and blow the whistle. One, two, three. (Applause.)

HARD-BOILED FACTS ABOUT THE WHITE HOUSE EASTER EGG ROLL

- There will be 25,000 wooden eggs distributed at this year's event. The wooden eggs feature a silhouette of the White House with children playing on the lawn, and includes the signatures of the President and First Lady.
- There will be 7,200 hard-boiled eggs used for the Egg Roll. The eggs are dyed by the White House chef. An additional 2,500 eggs are cooked for the egg-decorating activities.
- Nearly 500 volunteers, from celebrities to local citizens, help to make the White House Easter Egg Roll a special event for the families who visit. This massive effort is coordinated through the White House Volunteers Office.
- In 1878, President Hayes and his wife Lucy officially moved the Easter activities from the Capitol grounds to the White House grounds. The Easter Egg Roll has taken place on the White House lawn every year since then, except during World War I and World War II, when it was held at the National Zoo and other Washington locations.
- In order to accommodate more families attending Easter Monday activities, the President and Mrs. Clinton expanded the festivities from the South Lawn to the Ellipse in 1993.
- President Clinton is the first President to consistently attend the Easter Egg Roll.
- Adults must be accompanied by a child age 3 to 6 years to enter the White House South Lawn. All persons are required to have a ticket.
- American Sign Language interpreters are available for both the South Lawn and the Ellipse activities. Signs at the gates direct hearing-impaired families to these services.
- Each year the President and Mrs. Clinton invite groups of children with special needs to enjoy the Easter Egg Roll before the lawn opens to the public. This year they welcome many families organizations such as Childhood Brain Tumor Foundation, Easter Seals, Grant-a-Wish Foundation, Special Olympics of Maryland, Children's National Medical Center, and Make-A-Wish.
- In the event of heavy rain or thunderstorms, Easter Egg Roll events will be canceled and not rescheduled.
- Wooden Easter eggs are available for purchase at various kiosks and gift shops. The shop closest to the White House is the Visitor Pavilion at the Ellipse, south of the White House. To order wooden Easter eggs by phone, call 800-273-5071.
- Look for more information on the White House web site at www.whitehouse.gov.
- For additional information, members of the public should call the White House Visitors Office 24-Hour Public Events Line at 202-456-7041.

####

Easter 1999 at the White House also features traditional egg rolls and egg dying. Dressed in period costume, actors portraying such historical figures as George Washington, Teddy Roosevelt, Abigail Adams and Benjamin Bannecker will perform on the South Lawn. Woodrow the White House Mouse and official White House Bunnies will roam the lawn, greeting the children and enjoying the festivities. Embassies from around the world are creating displays to demonstrate how springtime is celebrated in countries including Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Gambia, Greece, Iceland, Indonesia, Latvia, Poland, Slovakia, Sweden, and many more.

For the sixth year in a row, the White House Easter egg collection will be on exhibit in the East Colonnade of the White House. The collection, which features real eggs decorated by artists from each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, was introduced by Mrs. Clinton as part of the White House Easter Egg Roll in 1994. Coordinated by the American Egg Board, different artists from around the country are invited each year to create an egg for the collection which is on display for three weeks prior to Easter and through the Easter Monday activities.

In addition, the creations of master pastry chefs will be on display on the South Lawn. Just returning home from the World Cup of Pastry in Lyon, France where they competed with 18 other nations, the silver-medal winning U.S. Team will display eight of their magnificent pastry creations in celebration of the Easter holiday.

This year's official White House Easter Egg Roll poster was designed by Susan Loy of Moneta, Virginia, a professional artist and calligrapher. The Easter 1999 program cover was created by Patricia Palermino, an internationally acclaimed folk artist, from Mt. Vernon, Virginia.

Tickets are required for the South Lawn Easter Egg Roll activities, and can be picked up at the Visitor's Pavilion on the Ellipse on Monday, April 5. Distribution of tickets will begin at approximately 7 a.m. One person can request up to six tickets, but one of these tickets must be used by a child between the ages of 3 and 6. The South Lawn will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tickets are not required for activities on the Ellipse, which will feature music and complimentary snacks such as juice, fruit, doughnuts, Peeps, shortbread and other treats.

###

Matt Stumpf
62505

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

EASTER AT THE WHITE HOUSE

The origins of Easter egg rolling at the White House have often been questioned.

The first egg rolls, largely family affairs, seem to have been held during the administration of President Andrew Johnson. Colonel William Crook, a White House employee from 1865-1915, wrote in his autobiography:

One pleasant feature of President Johnson's family life in the Executive Mansion that I like to recall to my own children is that of the egg-rolling on Easter Monday.

He wrote of the "youngsters of the President's family" dying the eggs on Sunday for the Monday rolling, which the First Lady would watch from the South Portico. [William H. Crook, Memories of the White House (Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1911, p.68-69)].

A family member also has attested to hearing the stories of such activity from Andrew Johnson Patterson, the President's grandson, who lived at the White House while his mother served as White House hostess on behalf of her invalid mother, First Lady Eliza Johnson.

It was under President Rutherford B. Hayes, however, that egg rolling at the White House became a more official, public event for the children of Washington. Damage to the U.S. Capitol lawns from egg rolling in 1876 had led the Congress to prohibit such activity there. This ruling was first enforced in 1878, according to The Evening Star:

Driven out of the Capitol grounds, the children advanced on the White House grounds today and rolled eggs down the terraces back of the Mansion and played among the shrubbery to their hearts content. [April 22, 1878]

Thereafter, the children were invited to the White House grounds for the Easter Monday festivities which were regularly reported in the local newspapers and even once in a national journal, Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper (April 23, 1887):

Hundred and hundreds of hard-boiled eggs were rolled down the slopes and the children went tumbling after. They rushed, scrambled and rolled for the oval prizes, which, when the shells were broken under the rough useage, were eaten without much more ado... President Cleveland... enjoyed the spectacle very much...

A 1908 press release spelled out the key rules for the day:

With the approval of the President, the south grounds of the White House will be opened, in accordance with custom, on Easter Monday... for children only, except that small children may be accompanied by adult guardians. Adults unaccompanied by small children will not be admitted.

Music by the service bands also has been a tradition since John Philip Sousa and the United States Marine Band first performed in 1889 for President Benjamin Harrison. In 1928 Sousa even wrote "Easter Monday on the White House Lawn" for a suite entitled Tales of a Traveler.

First Families have much enjoyed the event, welcoming thousands of children to the White House lawn, except during the periods of the two world wars when the house and grounds were closed to the public. In recent decades the Egg Roll has become increasingly elaborate with additional activities and mementos provided for the young participants.

Office of the Curator
April 1994



Shesol @ aol.com
04/04/99 02:18:17 PM

Please respond to Shesol@aol.com

Record Type: Record

To: Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: Eggs

Draft 04/04/99 1:00pm
Josh Gottheimer

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR WHITE HOUSE EASTER EGG ROLL
THE WHITE HOUSE
April 5, 1999

We're going to start another Easter Egg Roll in just a few moments. Before we do, I want to say a few words about the men and women of our Armed Forces, who are undertaking a mission in the Balkans for the sake of our national interests, our values and our children's future. Our thoughts and prayers are with them. I sincerely hope this sacred season of renewal, hope, and new beginnings inspire our efforts and light our way to a brighter, more peaceful tomorrow.

Now, let me join Hillary in thanking all of the sponsors who helped make this celebration possible. I especially want to thank the nearly 500 volunteers who were here early this morning getting everything set up. I know that many of you have helped before, but I see a lot of new faces every year -- including Jamie Lee Curtis who will be reading one of her favorite books. I also want to thank the White House chef for boiling and dying nearly 10,000 eggs for today's event. That's even more work than we ask him to do for a big state dinner.

The first time an Easter Egg Roll was held in the White House was way back in 1878, when Rutherford B. Hayes was President -- that was about the time your great, great, great grandparents were your age.

Hillary and I have always tried to make this an occasion for family fun and for family learning, because we all know how important it is for children -- especially very young children -- to learn together with their parents.

This year's activities will show you how much fun learning can be. I am especially proud of our Prescription for Learning initiative. Launched by the First Lady two years ago, this is an innovative effort that

works jointly with health care professionals and librarians to emphasize the importance of reading to children. As part of this initiative, children, and families at today's event will receive "Prescriptions -- for Reading?" -- signed by the First Lady and Surgeon General Satcher -- prescriptions that can be filled with a free book donated by Scholastic, Inc.

That's just one of the many activities we have in store for you today. You can also see an electronic presentation about the White House at the CD-ROM Pavilion -- and meet great American figures from our past at the Historical Fun Stage.

There are story-telling sessions with members of my Cabinet and senior staff, egg-painting contests, and lots of other things for you to do together as a family.

And now, I'm going to blow the whistle to start another Easter Egg Roll. On your marks, get ready, set ... GO!

Draft 04/03/99 4pm
Josh Gottheimer

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR WHITE HOUSE EASTER EGG ROLL
THE WHITE HOUSE
April 5, 1999

We're going to start another Easter Egg Roll in just a few moments. Before we do, I want to join Hillary in thanking all of the sponsors who helped make this celebration possible. I especially want to thank the nearly 500 volunteers who were here early this morning getting everything set up. I know that many of you have helped before, but I see a lot of new faces every year -- including Jamie Lee Curtis who will be reading one of her favorite books. I also want to thank the White House chef for boiling and dying nearly 10,000 eggs for today's event.

Today, our thoughts and prayers must be with the men and women of our Armed Forces stationed in Balkans, who are undertaking a mission for the sake of our values and our children's future. May this sacred season of renewal, hope, and new beginnings inspire our efforts and light our way to a brighter, more peaceful tomorrow.

The first time an Easter Egg Roll was held in the White House was way back in 1878, when Rutherford B. Hayes was President -- that was about the time your great, great, great grandparents were your age.

Hillary and I have always tried to make this an occasion for family fun and for family learning, because we all know how important it is for children -- especially very young children -- to learn together with their parents.

This year's activities will show you how much fun learning can be. I am especially proud of our "Prescription for Learning" initiative. Launched by the First Lady two years ago, this innovative effort that works jointly with health care professionals, librarians to emphasize the importance of reading to children. As part of this initiative, children, and families at today's event will receive "Prescriptions -- for Reading" -- signed by the First Lady and Surgeon General Satcher -- that can be filled with a free book donated by Scholastic, Inc.

"Prescription for Learning" is just one of the many activities we have in store for you today. You can also see an electronic presentation about the White House at the CD-ROM Pavilion -- and meet great American figures from our past at the Historical Fun Stage.

And there are story telling sessions with members of my Cabinet and senior staff, egg-painting contests, and lots of other things for you to do together as a family.

And now, I'm going to blow the whistle to start another Easter Egg Roll. On your marks, get ready, set....GO!